

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-029

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 128(132)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 128(132) marks Mason and Dixon's 128th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; is in deteriorated condition, unaltered; firmly in place, standing/^{only}about 8 inches above ground;/^{and}at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 of these original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. WA-VI-029

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, 128th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 128 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 132)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off east side of Reed Road

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington / PA: Fulton

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☒ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED☒ not applicable

STATUS N/A

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: state boundary marker**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE

Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

WA-VI-029 entered 2/24/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 128(132) marks Mason and Dixon's 128th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in deteriorated condition, unaltered, firmly in place, standing about 8 inches above ground, at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is very hilly, mostly forested, sparsely settled. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Bethel Township of Fulton County, PA; about midway between Cove Ridge on the east and Tonoloway Ridge to the west; about 1½ miles north-northwest of the town of Hancock, MD; about ¾ mile west of I-70; about 1100 feet east off a right-angle bend in Reed Road, about 200 feet west of a small stream, on an east slope of a hill, in the north edge of a hedgerow/wire fence separating a pasture on the south side from the old Columbia Gas pipeline/pasture on the north side. It/cannot be seen from any road, and only with luck when closeby. It is protected by this obscurity, but with continued neglect, may also disappear because of it.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, ^{said to have} originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4 feet or more long, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a shallow plain circle panel near the top. Reset in 1902 presumably to stand about 1½ feet high, it is ^{now} only about 8 inches above ground, though still measures almost 12 inches square. It has been disfigured by ^{extreme weathering and} chipping: the whole north side has been broken away; the M is discernible but the entire south side has been mutilated by chipping; the top is dome-shaped from chipping ^{and the apex is now a depression} along the top edges and corners; and all surfaces are unusually weathered (and it may be in the flood plain). There are no margins left, and only bits of fluting on the south and west sides.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Hancock (West Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74005, northing 440048

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Washington

STATE

Pennsylvania

COUNTY

Fulton

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey 5/30/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

WA-III-029

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 128(132)

HANCOCK QUADRANGLE

WEST VIRGINIA - MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC),
1951 PHOTO REV. 1971 SCALE: 1" = 2000'

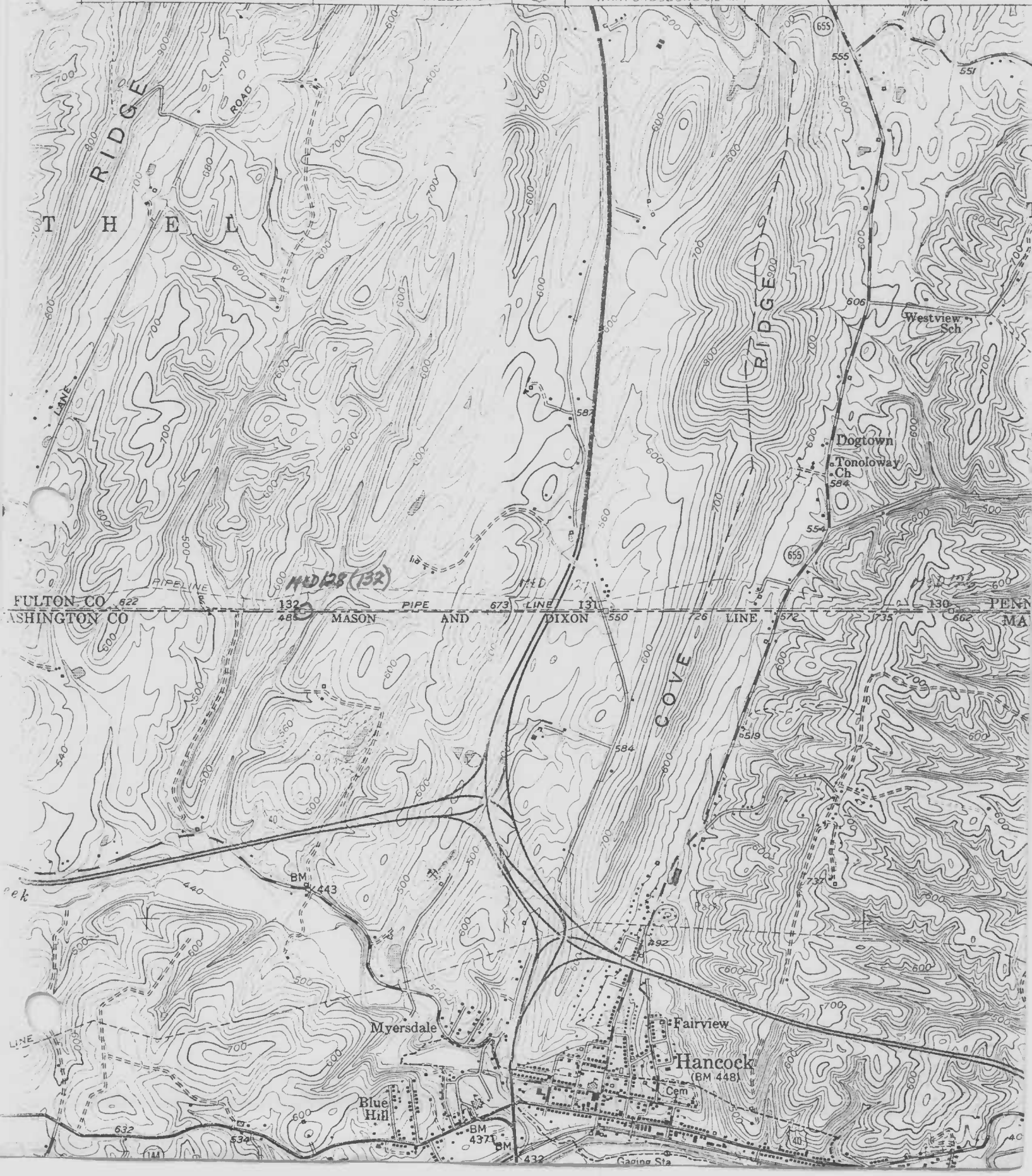
1 870 000 FEET
(PA.) 12'30"

5363 1 SW
(NEEDMORE)

522

WARFORDSBURG 0.2 MI

NEEDMORE 7.2 MI
10' 743





MHT

10A-VI-029

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 128 (132)
SW CORNER (-14), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/30/81 (1981.18.9)



MHT

WA-VI-029

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 128(132)
NE CORNER (-/P), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/30/81 (1981.18.11)